

Brussels Declaration 2022



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Ladies and Gentlemen,

We, the undersigned, hereby declare that European wolf management has failed! In the past 30 years after the resettlement of wolves in Europe, it has not been possible to develop a uniform and scientifically based management to create a way of dealing with wolves that is compatible with agriculture and nature conservationists. Acceptance of wolves is steadily declining due to the lack of effective passive livestock protection measures and failure to keep promises to remove wolves that repeatedly approach grazing animals.

All warnings from internationally renowned scientists who are concerned with wolf research are ignored, for example: Prof. Dr. Pfannenstiel, Prof. Dr. M Stubbe, Prof. Valerius Geist, Prof. Bibikow, Prof. Granquist, Kaj Granlund. On the contrary, the unhindered spread of wolf packs in densely populated cultural landscapes is still being maintained. In some regions of Germany, we have the highest population density of wolves WORLDWIDE! Naturally, such a systemic problem cannot be met with a banal solution: Therefore, it is not enough with the buzzwords "livestock protection dog" and "wolf-repellent electric fences"! These terms, which sound so omnipotent to laypeople, are misleading; they suggest the fallacy that a livestock guardian dog automatically means that a herd is protected or that there really is something like an electric fence that reliably keeps wolves away.

Rather, these measures have a significant impact on the hiking trails, the wildlife trail network and thus also on almost all recreational and sporting activities in nature. In addition, the pastures equipped with "heavy-duty" fences or monitored by herd guard dogs represent insurmountable obstacles for our native wild animals and massive restrictions on movement in the open countryside. In summary, this means that in the German cultural landscape characterized by pastoralism, grazing animal husbandry also has priority over wolves must have.

Against this background, a more meaningful approach follows, linked to five essential requirements that we have developed under the premise of not only being able to continue to preserve the harmony between people and nature, but also to be able to carry our traditional craft stronger into the future:

The signatories therefore call on politicians to take the following measures:

1. Today's wolf management is to be replaced by real wildlife management.
2. Wolves are wild animals and are among the most successful large carnivores on earth. Wolves are not endangered. (IUCN Status Least Concerned). In addition, a population limit must be set and the surplus wolves must be removed.
3. Definition of grazing animal protection zones!
 - We know that the wolf is strictly protected, but we reject widespread reintroduction of wolves in Europe and regard them as an alien, invasive species. Due to the associated impact on pastoralism and grazing livestock farmers, we question who this environment -, species protection and last but not least social and socio-political aberration of a widespread wolf population in Europe. Until this question has been clarified, grazing cattle farming in Europe must be maintained across the board

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and permanently without reasonable additional effort, even when wolves are present. Therefore, especially in ecologically valuable areas with a high density of grazing animals, where preventive measures are not possible and reasonable, so-called grazing animal protection zones should be established. In these zones, the protection and preservation of grazing animals must take precedence over the protection of wolves and unbureaucratic removal of wolves must be permitted despite species protection.

4. Declaration of favorable conservation status for all of Europe!

- Wolves are spreading throughout Europe. Whether metapopulation, subpopulation or population - all indicate an increasing genetic exchange. Politicians are called upon to change the protection status of wolves in Europe. Against the background of the continuing spread, the "favourable conservation status" of European wolf populations, which is required for release from the strict protection status (Annex IV FFH), has been reached. This should also open up the possibility of intervening to control or regulate the wolf population. Proper hunting requires the wolf to be transferred from Annex IV to Annex V of the Habitats Directive, which must be implemented immediately.

According to Habitats Directive 92/43 Article 1.i: The conservation status is considered favorable if, based on data on the population dynamics of the species, it can be assumed that this species forms and will continue to form a viable element of the natural habitat to which it belongs in the long term and the natural range of this species is neither decreasing nor likely to decrease in the foreseeable future and is sufficiently large habitat exists and is likely to continue to exist to ensure the long-term survival of the population of this species.

5. Hybrids can be found in the landscape!

- Mixed wolf breeds (hybrids) can be found in nature; they endanger the species "WOLF" the most (Boitani)! Photographic and film evidence of mixed-breed wolves is now plentiful. First genetic evidence as well. We therefore demand the overdue investigation of all wolf packs by independent and recognized foreign wolf scientists to determine whether they are actually pure wolves. (e.g. through accredited DNA laboratories and supplementary craniology and morphology assessments).

We expect everyone to work actively and vigorously at EU, federal and state level to ensure that wolves, grazing animals and our natural resources of flora and fauna are treated responsibly.

Kind regards

Wendelin Schmücker

Chairman of the Association for the Promotion of German Sheep Farming (FDS)